GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:32
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
MENTAL AILMENTS
Chitthan Shri N.S.V.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of patients with mental ailments is constantly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) to (c): Yes, Sir. The number of persons with mental illness is increasing due to changes in demographics such as increase in population and over all increase in the rate of depression worldwide. Epidemiological studies have revealed that 1 to 2% of the population has major mental disorders and 5 to 10% suffer from minor mental disorders. Efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health care delivery system. In order to provide increased access and better quality of mental health care, the Government has expanded the National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan with an outlay of Rs.139 crores in order to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover 100 districts in the country, strengthen the 37 Government mental health institutes and also psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges, undertake IEC activities and research and training.